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CLAIMS

1. An electronic method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:

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an information request step, wherein the user is prompted to enter desired travel product information for a plurality of travel products;

an information receipt step, wherein the desired travel product information is received from a user;

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a calculation step, wherein the received information is used to search through a database to determine the cost of the desired travel products; and

a reporting step, wherein the cost of each travel product is reported to the user.

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a prompting step wherein the user is prompted to request alternative travel product information; and

an alternative travel request receipt step wherein a user request to receive alternative travel product information is received.

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a second calculating step wherein a discount database is accessed to determine alternative travel products to offer the user; and

an alternative travel reporting step wherein alternative travel products are reported to the user.

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2. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of claim 1 wherein the reporting step and the alternative travel reporting steps comprise displaying a range of prices for each travel product based upon availability of products from different product providers; and displaying a total price range for all of the requested travel products.

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1 3. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 2 wherein the information request step further comprises
prompting a user to select an airline departure date, a departure
5 location, a destination location.

 4. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 3 wherein the information request step further comprises
prompting a user to select a hotel location and a number of
10 nights to reside at the hotel.

 5. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 4 wherein the information request step further comprises
prompting a user to select a rental car location and a number of
15 days a rental car will be rented.

 6. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 5 wherein as part of the calculation step, the received
duration of time between the airplane departure date and the
20 airplane return date is used to determine the number of nights
to reside at the hotel and the number of days a rental car will
be rented.

 7. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 6 wherein as part of the calculation step, the airplane
25 destination city is used to determine the hotel location and the
rental car location.

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1 8. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 5 wherein alternative travel products are found by altering
at least one of the group consisting of the departure flight
city, the departure flight date, the destination city, the return
5 flight date, the number of nights of hotel rental, the type of
hotel rented, the number of days of car rental, and the type of
car rented to conform to the requirements of at least one
discount in the discount database.

10 9. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 8 further comprising a prompting step wherein a user is
prompted to purchase travel products.

15 10. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 9 further comprising:

a personal information prompting step wherein the user is
prompted to enter personal information;

a personal information receiving step wherein personal
information is received from a user;

20 a payment information prompting step wherein the user is
prompted to enter payment information;

a payment information receiving step wherein payment
information is received from a user; and

25 a reservation step wherein travel product providers of the
purchased products are contacted, reservations are made, and
travel products purchased.

30 11. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of
claim 10 wherein the information request step further comprises
prompting a user to select at least one of the group consisting
of a cruise departure date, a cruise departure location, a cruise
destination location, a cruise return date, a cruise provider,
a cruise ship, a cruise name, and a cruise passenger class.

1 12. An electronic method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:

an information request step, wherein the user is prompted to enter desired travel product information;

an information receipt step, wherein desired travel product information is received from a user;

a first calculation step, wherein the received desired travel product information is used to search through a database of travel products to determine the cost of the desired travel products;

a second calculation step, wherein the database of travel products is searched for alterations of the received desired travel product information to take advantage of discounts; and

a reporting step, wherein the cost of each travel product is reported to the user.

13. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of claim 12 wherein the information request step further comprises:

prompting a user to enter at least one of the group consisting of desired airline, cruise, train, hotel and car rental information.

14. A system for determining travel product prices for users comprising:

an information server coupled to a computer network;

a user terminal coupled to the computer network;

a first database coupled to the computer network for storing airplane flight information; and

a second database coupled to the computer network for storing hotel information;

a third database coupled to the computer network for storing rental car information;

wherein the information server is configured to receive requests for information from the user terminal, aggregate

1 airplane flight information from the first database, hotel
information stored in the second database, and car rental
information stored in the third database, and transmit the
5 airplane flight information, hotel information, and car rental
information to the user terminal.

15. A system for determining travel product prices of claim
14 further comprising:

10 an airplane flight discount database;
a hotel discount database; and
a car rental discount database;

wherein the information server is further configured to
obtain discounted travel product information from the airplane
flight discount database, the car rental discount database, and
15 the car rental discount database; and

wherein the information server is further configured to
transmit discounted travel product information to the user
terminal.

1 16. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a set
of instructions including instruction for distributing travel
product information, the instruction, when executed by a
5 microprocessor cause the microprocessor to perform the steps of:

requesting desired travel product information;

receiving desired travel product information;

10 searching a database of travel product information for
travel product information based upon the received desired travel
product information;

10 aggregating travel product information based upon the
received desired travel product information and based upon
available travel product discounts;

15 transmitting the aggregated travel product information to
the user;

searching a database of travel products;

15 selecting in the database of travel product discounts
alternative travel products to the received desired travel
products that qualify for a discount; and

20 transmitting the alternative travel products to a user.

17. An electronic method for calculating travel costs for
a user comprising:

25 an information request step, wherein the user is prompted
to enter desired travel product information for a plurality of
travel products;

an information receipt step, wherein the desired travel
product information is received from a user;

30 a calculation step, wherein the received information is used
to search through a database to determine the cost of the desired
travel products; and

a reporting step, wherein the cost of each travel product
is reported to the user;

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a second calculating step wherein a discount database is accessed to determine alternative travel products to offer the user; and

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an alternative travel reporting step wherein alternative travel products are reported to the user.

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18. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of claim 17 wherein the information request step further comprises prompting a user to select attributes for at least one of the group consisting of cruise, airplane, hotel and car rental related travel products.

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19. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of claim 18 wherein the reporting step comprises displaying a range of prices for each travel product based upon availability of products from different product providers; and displaying a total price range for all of the requested travel products.

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20. An electronic method for calculating travel costs of claim 18 wherein the alternative travel reporting step comprises displaying alternative travel products in sets, and displaying a total price range for all of the selected alternative travel products in a given set.

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